

3 December 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Priority National Intelligence Objectives

1. At the conclusion of UNIB consideration of the subject on 1 December, we sensed (perhaps mistakenly) that the members had had enough of the semantic difficulties in which they were enmeshed and were ready to accept new formulations on the points at issue which gave sufficient recognition to the respective points of view expressed. Accordingly, we called a cleanup session of the representatives and presented new texts designed to provide an escape from the impasse.

2. This effort failed when the respective representatives, instead of accepting the proffered way out, demanded contradictory amendments designed to reestablish their previous opposed positions.

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3. It may be that these positions were in fact irreconcilable, though we doubt it. We attribute the fiasco, at least in part, to two adverse factors:

a. Although the PHIO's are supposed to represent critical estimative problems, most USIB agencies send representatives from their collection divisions. These representatives tend to be intransigent.

b. Only two of the representatives had been at the USIB meeting. Consequently they had not the same feel for the situation that we had.

4. We also attempted a reconciliation of the opposing versions of I f and II e, relating to space, but this attempt collapsed when [] (SIC) repudiated his position in the footnote on p. 4 and declared that all reference to the subject should be deleted from First Priority. That was our own proposal at the beginning of this review and we would concur now (but the Air Force will not).

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5. In Tab A we present our present recommendations to you on the points at issue. Tabs B, C, and D are for background information. They show General Willers' specific proposals in USIB and our counterproposals to the representatives.

FOR THE BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES:

ABBOT SMITH
Acting Chairman